

Iran says Briton gets 'heavy' sentence

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Tuesday that Briton Roger Cooper, held in Tehran since December 1985, had received a "heavy sentence" after confessing to spying for Britain. Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshari was quoted by the official IRNA news agency as saying the judiciary had completed proceedings against Cooper and a court had passed a "heavy" sentence. But he said the judiciary was still considering a final judgement which it would issue in the future. He did not elaborate. Reyshari said Cooper had confessed to spying and "nothing could halt this case." He said Cooper had worked in key government centres in the ministries of planning and budget, foreign affairs as well as radio and television in Iran since 1958.

Jordan Times

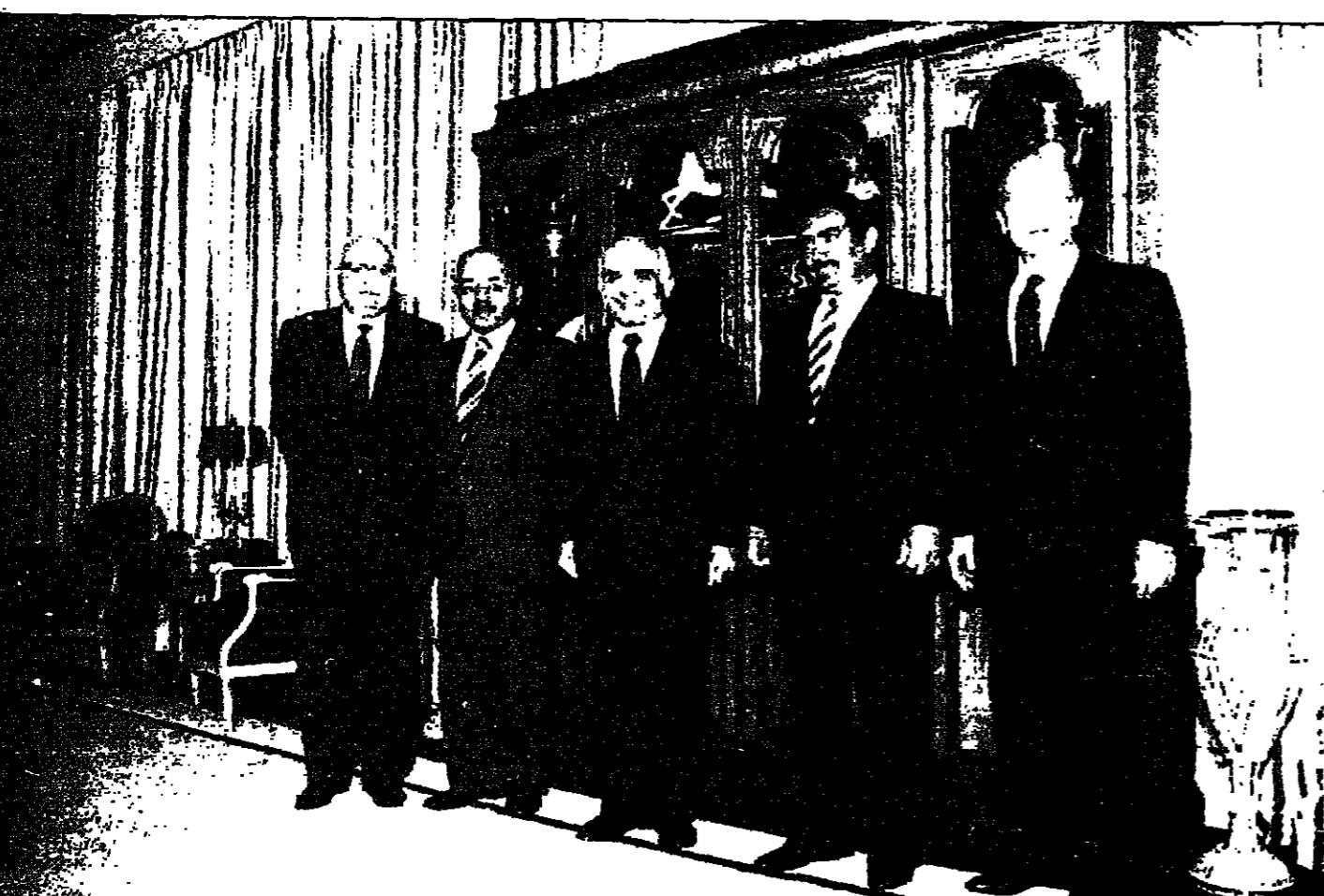
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His Majesty King Hussein with (left to right) Prime Minister Atef Sedki of Egypt, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan of Iraq, Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani of North Yemen and

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on the eve of Tuesday's meeting in Amman on laying the foundation for the Arab Cooperation Council (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Shevardnadze visit announced; talks to focus on peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will arrive here for a two-day visit to Jordan Feb. 19 for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior government officials, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. A ministry spokesman said the visit "is an embodiment of Soviet-Jordanian ties of friendship and understanding, and reflects the two countries' desire to pursue consultations and coordination of views on issues of common interest."

"The visit demonstrates Moscow's constructive responsibility towards Middle East issues and its determination to exert serious efforts towards settling the problems," the spokesman said. The King and other senior Jordanian leaders will exchange views with Shevard-

nadze on developments in the Palestine problem, the positive development in the Palestinian, Arab and international situations and efforts to convene an international peace conference to establish a just and durable peace in the region. The two sides, the spokesman said, will also discuss Jordanian-Soviet relations and means of bolstering cooperation.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Israel stops radio jamming

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has stopped jamming broadcasts of a Palestinian radio station it once accused of inciting protests in the Israeli-occupied territories. Arabs and an Israeli radio monitor said Tuesday, Palestinians said Israel may have stopped the jamming because it hoped the broadcasts by a Syria-based rebel faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would sow division among the two sides of Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Radio Al-Badr, run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) general Command, had condemned the PLO for recognizing Israel as a defeatist policy.

S. envoy to S. Arabia resigns

RIYADH (AP) — The American ambassador to Riyadh, Walter L. Miller, has sent his resignation to Washington and will leave his post at the end of March, well-informed sources said Tuesday. Miller, 57, arrived in August for his second posting in the kingdom, replacing ambassador Hume Horan who had been recalled for "consultations."

Lebanese stage anti-Hizbullah protest

BEIRUT (R) — Thousands of Lebanese staged a protest Tuesday in the South Lebanese town of Tyre to protest the arm of a pro-Iranian group to the area, witnesses said. They shops, banks, and schools closed as the crowd, estimated at about 10,000, chanted slogans condemning the return of Hizbullah to the local militia-controlled area. Tuesday's march was the first sign that each pact reached between Hizbullah and its rival Amal militia in months last month might be in trouble.

US delays MX decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House will not meet a deadline set for Congress for deciding whether to continue building MX missiles or to a smaller, single-warhead missile dubbed the Midgetman, it announced Tuesday. "We are reviewing the entire strategic future of the country and it is logical and necessary that we postpone a major decision until the review is complete," said White House Secretary Marlin Fitzwater. A bill approved last year stipulated \$350 million earmarked for the MX programme could not be spent until the new administration informed Congress of its long-term intentions. It set a deadline of Wednesday for the decision.

Iran seeking freedom for Egyptian PoWs

TEHRAN (R) — Iran is trying to help free several thousand citizens held in Iran after being captured fighting for Iraq in the war, an Egyptian diplomat said Tuesday. Yousef Ibn Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs, flew to Egypt Tuesday after talks in Muscat with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Vayati. Egyptian officials expect him to have some word on the fate of prisoners. "We do not know exactly how many they are... we have good news on the issue from Iran before but we have not seen it yet," the diplomat told Reuters by telephone.

Leader of Peruvian miners killed

LA PLATA (R) — The leader of Peru's powerful miners union was shot to death and a senior union official Tuesday accused a right-wing death squad of his murder. The bullet-riddled body of Saul Cantor, 43, general secretary of the 60,000-strong Peruvian Miners Federation, was found near Lima shortly before midnight Monday, according to union accounts. Cantor led two crippling national strikes last year. Owners said one 55-day stoppage cost \$497 million in production losses in copper, zinc and silver mines.



Eduard Shevardnadze

Khartoum plans fresh bid to end civil war

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government, under pressure at home and abroad to end the civil war in the south, is planning a new peace initiative, Foreign Minister Hassan Al-Tourabi said Tuesday.

He said the plan would urge an immediate ceasefire to be followed by a peace conference with an open agenda.

"All issues of substance can be taken up in the conference and we have no conditions as to the venue, time or observers," Tourabi, leader of the militant National Islamic Front (NIF) party, told Reuters in an interview.

Tourabi advocates the strict implementation of Sharia laws in Sudan. This is strongly rejected as divisive by the SPLA and leftist parties.

Arab and Western diplomats in Khartoum say Tourabi's NIF also advocates an all-out offensive against the SPLA with massive Arab support to force the rebels to negotiate peace without pre-conditions.

Tourabi said Sudan would not end its state of emergency until the fighting had stopped and would not sever cooperation with other Arab states, but rather planned to increase general coordination with such neighbours as Libya, Chad, Egypt and Ethiopia. It accuses the latter of supporting the rebels.

On the controversial issue of Sharia, Tourabi said it should be a subject for debate in a peace conference.

Several residents of Kabul said letters purporting to come from rebel commanders had been delivered secretly to people's houses, warning them to close their shops, stay indoors or leave homes close to the airport Wednesday.

Afghan government troops stationed on the Salang Highway, the vital artery linking Kabul to the southern Soviet border, said a big supply convoy had reached the capital Monday and another was expected Tuesday.

Rocket attack

Rebels fired two rockets at Kabul airport Tuesday. The Soviet trade union news-

Aziz: Iran not yet ready for peace

By Suhaib Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said Tuesday Iran's intransigence was to blame for the deadlock in the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations after eight years of war and that Tehran was not yet ready for peace in the region.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival here with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan to attend meetings on the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), Aziz said Iran was only honouring the ceasefire that took effect Aug. 20 under U.N. auspices and not moving towards any substantial issues to find comprehensive peace. "The mysterious part of the Iranian stand is

much more than the obvious," Aziz said.

The foreign minister said Iraq was ready for immediate release of prisoners of war (POWs) taken in the eight-year war provided Iran would reciprocate. "Prisoners should not be used as an element in political negotiations," he said.

Aziz, who met with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati at the U.N. in a meeting attended by the U.N. secretary general earlier this week, said Iran and Iraq would hold another round talks by end of March or early April. The two sides will discuss suggestions expected to be tabled by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Aziz said without elaboration.

The ACC, he said, was the result of 10 years of economic and



Tareq Aziz

commercial cooperation and political coordination among Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen — the founder members of the council. "Relations among the four countries have already been founded on solid grounds," he noted, "and that makes our task easier."

Arafat meets U.S. legislator

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has met with U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens for talks on human rights in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported Tuesday.

The congressmen's Washington office confirmed the Monday meeting which lasted more than four hours. Arafat and Owens, a Utah Democrat who is temporary chairman of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, discussed ongoing efforts at peace, ways of establishing a dialogue between all parties and human rights violations in the occupied territories.

Art Kingdom, a spokesman in Owens' office, said the congressman talked to Arafat about the many concerns members of Congress have about the PLO policies and actions.

He said Owens sought to make Arafat understand that the quality, duration and extent of relations between the U.S. and the PLO depend on how the concerns are addressed.

Owens plans to make another trip to Tunisia in March and may meet with Arafat again.

In its annual report on human rights practices around the world issued last week, the U.S. State Department said Israel's response to the Palestinian uprising "led to a substantial increase in human rights violations" in the occupied territories last year.

Arafat flew into Dakar Tuesday on a two-day working visit to Senegal, a close ally of the Arabs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Golan Arabs stage protest

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Arab residents in the occupied Golan Heights staged a protest strike and stayed home from work Tuesday to mark the seventh anniversary of the Israeli "annexation" of the territory.

Israeli radio said.

Hundreds of extra police-men and border patrol troops were sent to the Golan Heights as reinforcements Monday to keep the order and prevent an outburst of violence, the radio said. But it added there were no major outbreaks of trouble.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, meanwhile, troops shot and wounded a 14-year-old boy in the head at the Shati refugee camp, but hospital officials said he was not in serious condition.

The army clamped a curfew on Gaza's Rafah refugee camp following demonstrations Monday night, an Arab reporter said.

In nearby Khan Yunis, an Israeli labour department office was destroyed Monday night by a blaze apparently started by Palestinians, the reporter said.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, merchants closed their stores to protest raids by Israeli tax authorities, an Arab reporter said. Tax boycotts have been a regular feature of the anti-Israeli Palestinian uprising.

Dozens of Bethlehem merchants, as well as physicians who said their offices were raided by tax agents Monday, staged a sit-in protest in the town's International Red Cross building Tuesday. The Red Cross building is one of the few places they are able to stage a protest without being dispersed by the army.

One protester said: "The Israelis can tell themselves we are Israelis but they can't stop us from being Syrians in our

hearts."

"The demonstration is on this day to mark the annexation but of course it is also a protest against occupation," he said.

In Majdal Shams, in the Golan Heights, residents held a march through the town.

"Golan is Syrian and Palestine is Arab," the demonstrators shouted. "Syria stands together with the Palestinians."

The mostly Druze villagers protest each Feb. 14 against the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights in December 1981. The day of the demonstration recalls Israel's arrest in February 1982 of four local leaders.

Their faces masked by scarves, the protesters said this year they were also marching in solidarity with the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rebels close in on Kabul as Soviets meet deadline

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union said Tuesday that about 30,000 rebels were massed around Kabul, amid reports that some Afghan army units were deserting positions handed over to them by the withdrawing Soviet army.

"There are around 15,000 rebels around (the eastern city of) Jalalabad and double that around Kabul," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfiliev told a news conference, without giving further details.

However, Perfiliev said the situation within Kabul was calm and stressed that the last Soviet troops would leave the country on schedule Wednesday.

"From Feb. 13 there will not be any longer a single Soviet soldier in Afghanistan," Perfiliev said.

Rebels fired two rockets at Kabul airport Tuesday.

A small group of Soviet soldiers waited eagerly at Kabul airport for the order to board planes home before Wednesday's deadline for the final pullout, more than nine years after Moscow sent in its forces in December 1979.

Several residents of Kabul said letters purporting to come from rebel commanders had been delivered secretly to people's houses, warning them to close their shops, stay indoors or leave homes close to the airport Wednesday.

Afghan soldiers guarding Kabul airport said two rockets had landed near the runway without causing harm. Some outgoing artillery fire was also heard but a Reuter reporter in Kabul said the capital was generally quiet.

No Shura progress

Rival Afghan guerrilla factions in Pakistan made little progress on forming an interim non-communist government in their homeland, and a leading moderate party said it would boycott the talks until a row with fundamentalists was resolved.

Delegates to the council, or Shura, aimed at approving an interim government for Afghanistan following the departure of Soviet forces, met Tuesday morning without the Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF).

Afghan soldiers guarding Kabul airport said two rockets had landed near the runway without causing harm. Some outgoing artillery fire was also heard but a Reuter reporter in Kabul said the capital was generally quiet.

There was no immediate support from two other moderate rebel Mujahideen groups based

in Pakistan for the walk-out by ANLF leader Sibghatullah Mojadidi.

Their officials had said earlier they would back a boycott if the ANLF walked out over a row on how many Shura seats should be given to eight Mujahideen groups based in Tehran.

"Whether we join the boycott will depend on the proceedings and what kind of decisions are taken," said a spokesman for one of the other moderate groups.

He said the Tuesday morning Shura session discussed only the ANLF boycott and what to do about it. No decisions were taken, the spokesman added.

"But, obviously, without the ANLF and the Tehran-based groups, the validity of the Shura is totally gone," he said.

The Kabul government said meanwhile that it was holding peace talks with some rebel Mujahideen commanders.

The official Bakhshir news agency, quoting a government statement, said the talks had started in the past few days but did not identify any of the commanders.

Most of the major guerrilla leaders are in Pakistan.

"In the past several days a number of commanders of armed opposition groups started talks with representatives of the authorities," Bakhshir said in a dispatch received in Islamabad.

"They said the absence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan made it possible for them to take part in the process of a peaceful settlement and the termination of fratricide as soon as possible," it quoted the statement as saying.

EC to try to persuade U.S. to back peace conference on Mideast

MADRID (Agencies) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers agreed Tuesday to press the new U.S. administration to back an international peace conference on the Middle East, diplomats said.

"The United States holds the key. The United States is still formulating its policy. The community must try to influence that policy," one diplomat said, summing up the ministers' discussion.

Spain's Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez urged caution in the early days of the Bush administration in a report on his visits last weekend to Jordan, Egypt and Syria. He was accompanied by Roland Dumas of France and Karolos Papoulias of Greece.

Diplomats said a major preoccupation was that the community should put its views forcefully to the Bush administration before Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir travels to Washington next month.

President George Bush has yet to nominate someone for the top State Department post on the Middle East or lay down a clear policy. Until now, Washington has not backed a U.N.-sponsored peace conference because Israel has refused to accept it.

Fernandez Ordóñez, the current president of the EC Council of Ministers, is due to see U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Madrid Wednesday.

Diplomats said he would stress the importance the 12 EC governments attach to an international peace conference and Washington's crucial role in convincing Israel — which depends on U.S. aid — that it was the only way forward.

They said Fernandez Ordóñez would also propose a meeting between Baker and the Spanish-French-Greek troika spearheading community efforts, perhaps at the opening of East-West arms talks in Vienna next month.

The latest EC efforts in the Middle East followed the decision by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in November to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist.

That also persuaded the United States to resume high-level contacts with the PLO.

But diplomats said what had originally been billed as a major EC initiative was now being described as a fact-finding visit that had been welcomed by all parties.

"They have been trying very hard to lower expectations," said a non-EC diplomat.

Tuesday's discussion was comparatively brief and yielded no plans for fresh contacts in the region following the "troika" talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Madrid last month and with the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Syria this month.

Fernandez Ordóñez and Dumas also have paid separate visits to Israel in recent weeks and Shamir is expected to visit Madrid on his way back from Washington next month.

But Israel has criticised EC and U.S. contacts with the PLO.

Arens in London

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrived in London Tuesday for talks with British leaders who he said could play an important role in the Middle East peace process.

Arens will discuss the current situation in the occupied territories, battered by the 14-month Palestinian revolt, and current peace moves with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign

Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe. He will also meet opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock during his three-day visit.

Arens said before leaving Israel that he had no plans to present a promised Israeli peace initiative in Britain.

Shamir has spent the last two months working on new interim proposals based on Israel's 1978 Camp David accord with Egypt. Arens said these would be discussed in Washington.

The proposals provide for elections for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and peace talks under superpower auspices. Israel says it will withdraw troops from populated areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip once Palestinian "autonomy" is established.

The U.S.-educated hardliner said Thatcher was a "national hero in Israel" and a long-standing friend who could help advance the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"It depends what role Britain wants to play," he told the Times newspaper in an interview. "Perhaps Britain can put forward ideas acceptable to all sides."

Arens' trip comes at a delicate time in Anglo-Israeli relations.

Britain has upgraded contacts with the PLO and Israeli leaders have bristled at British condemnation of their handling of the Palestinian uprising.

They were angered by remarks by junior Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave during talks with Arafat last month in Tunis.

Waldegrave urged Israel to recall the terrorist past of some of its leaders — including Shamir — under the British mandate and accept that Palestinians could also abandon violence for peaceful politics.

Howe last week urged Israel to start "facing the facts" and meet the Palestinians half-way.

Alliance framework formulated

Continued from page 1

grouping. "This is the first time we focus on the economic aspect as a broad basis for unity. This will also reflect the political side, noting the level of political coordination and consultation among the four states over the past ten years has been exemplary."

In another arrival statement, Sedki said the aim of the grouping was the establishment of a "united Arab market following the example of the European Community."

He said that any Arab grouping was bound to contain a strength for the Arab position and a movement towards a historic unity of the Arab people. He added that "an economic unity will inevitably have an impact on politics."

The Egyptian premier said the ACC would establish an executive council to be headed by the four prime ministers and it would meet every six months. The four heads of state would meet once a year, Sedki said, adding that Egypt suggested that the council's permanent secretariat would be based in Amman.

Jordanian officials said the aim of the council was to establish economic unity between its members as an important preparatory step towards an eventual political unity.

Officials quoted in the local press said Monday the ACC's draft charter stipulated that the four countries would strive to achieve economic integration.

They said that priority in trade exchange would be given to the products of member states and that each country would minimise

inter-state competition.

The council would also establish a central importation committee with the aim of getting lower prices for imports.

Petra said the council would work towards strengthening economic ties between the four, boost trade and tourism, promote free movement of goods and labour, set up joint ventures and increase exports and investments.

The Jordanian officials said the council intends to gradually lower customs and tariff walls and reduce bureaucratic procedures. They would also gradually impose customs fees on imported goods from outside the council.

The officials said the ACC plans to develop transport cooperation to facilitate trade exchange. The council plans to establish a maritime line linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean from the Alexandria port in Egypt to North Yemen, passing through the port of Aqaba in the Red Sea. They will also merge the four national airlines, according to the sources, which requested anonymity.

They said there was a plan to set up a regional fund, similar to the European Fund for Regional Development, with the purpose of balancing the distribution of money from rich areas to poor areas in member states.

The council also intends to draw up strategies for dealing with other regional and international economic groups, particularly the European Community.

Officials said North Yemen had already suggested a project for the electrification of its rural areas, to be carried out with Jordanian, Egyptian and Iraqi

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On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Aziz, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'doun Hamadi, Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Zubaidi, Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh, and other officials.

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The council also intends to draw up strategies for dealing with other regional and international economic groups, particularly the European Community.

Officials said North Yemen had already suggested a project for the electrification of its rural areas, to be carried out with Jordanian, Egyptian and Iraqi

expertise and technical assistance.

The meeting of the four prime ministers Tuesday was attended by high-level officials from the four countries including on the Jordanian side Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouran Hindawi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Qasem, Transport and Communication Minister Khaled Haj Hassan, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, Information Minister Hani Khasawneh and Supply Minister Fayez Tarawneh.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Planning Minister Kamal Janzouri, Transport and Communications Minister Suleiman Mutwalli, Military Production Minister Jamal Al Sayed, Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif, Industry Minister Mohammad Abdul Wahab, Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Yusri Mustafa, International Cooperation Minister Maurice Makramallah, First Under-Secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs Osama Al Baz and Secretary General of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers Ahmad Radwan.

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Giant step towards Arab unity

THE ARAB World takes another landmark stride Thursday with the proclamation of the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad by the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. The event assumes additional significance in light of the overwhelmingly economic nature of the sub-regional alliance devoted to tying up loose ends and fitting in the right pieces in the right places in terms of resources and needs of the four member states. While it would be naive to expect a made-to-order economic alliance to be in place overnight after the proclamation of the ACC, there is no room for doubt that the grouping would go a long way in advancing and strengthening the concept of pan-Arab economic unity — a much-cherished but elusive dream, which, as and when realised, could do away with a major part of the Arab Nation's dependence on foreign sources and alleviate the political ramifications of such dependence.

It is not an easy task that lies ahead of the ACC, particularly when seen in light of the diverse nature of the economies of the four founder members of the alliance. Meshing together the economic systems in place is indeed a heavy responsibility and an unenviable task of the ACC leaders; at the same time, the groundwork has already been done through the years of performance of joint higher committees among the four. Quite simply, it is no longer the jigsaw puzzle that some seek to portray, since each member is aware of what it can offer others and what the others can provide in return. That indeed is the best starting point. Teething problems will be there but that should not be any discouraging factor, nor should they be a cause for ridicule.

The sincere and dedicated effort that His Majesty King Hussein and other leaders of the alliance undertook to explain to the rest of the world that the council is not aimed at any other party and that it has no political goals appear to have been well received in Arab circles. The alliance has left its door open to admit non-members of the Gulf Cooperation Council or the planned Arab Maghreb Union. Hopefully, once the air is totally clear and the dust settles down, they will opt to join in. If anything, the scenario adds to the responsibility and should strengthen the determination of the alliance to prove itself a success to the rest of the Arab World and the international community.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

The meeting in Amman of the prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen is the theme of editorials in the Al Ra'i and Al Dustour dailies Tuesday.

For its part, Al Ra'i daily said the four prime ministers will spend two days discussing the formation of the alliance before its official proclamation in Baghdad by their heads of state. The new economic group will no doubt serve as a very constructive contribution to building a strong Arab economic entity, and one that will have its effects and influence on world affairs. The alliance will be open to countries wishing to join in the efforts for strengthening the national economy and will serve as an example and a model for close cooperation among states existing next to one another and harbouring great hopes for the future, through close cooperation, the paper noted. In our present age, the paper added, economic alliances are required so that common challenges can be met and progress can be achieved faster. The paper said that the meeting in Amman is of paramount importance, not for the four countries only, but rather for all the Arab states.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Tuesday on a visit to the Middle East by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, the first since taking office three years ago. Mahmoud Rimawi says that the Soviet official is coming here against a background of peace initiatives to settle the Middle East conflict and as the European Community nations are showing increasing interest in finding a solution to the Palestine problem. Apart from discussing the Middle East issue, the Soviet official is bound to tackle other matters like the situation in Lebanon, the Gulf situation, Syrian-Palestinian differences and Syrian-Iraqi relations because these are also of concern to Moscow which strives to see the Arabs united in their action with which they can attain a lasting and honourable settlement, the writer points out. Therefore, the writer adds, the Soviet foreign minister is expected to exert efforts towards solving side issues to put an end to inter-Arab differences, thus paving the way for an all out effort to deal with the central and more important issue.

Al Dustour welcomed the prime ministers of the three countries meeting with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in Amman Tuesday to discuss the tripartite economic alliance. It said that the alliance should be considered as a fruit of Jordanian diplomacy led by His Majesty King Hussein and supported by the leaders of the four countries. There is no doubt that the alliance would be a good contribution towards an all out Arab unity in the future and will pave the way for more fruitful cooperation among Arab states in economic fields, the paper noted. The paper said that such alliance could never have been achieved had there not been complete harmony among the heads of state of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen; and there is no doubt that such harmony would be deepened when close cooperation has begun and more economic progress has been achieved for the benefit of their peoples.

Sawt Al Shabab daily said that Amman is opening its arms for the Arabs and hosting a meeting that would pave the way for a new phase of cooperation leading to unity. The Arab Cooperation Council, which the four ministers will fuse in their meetings here, constitutes a wide and concrete step towards bringing more progress and prosperity through sharing of expertise and through interaction in economic fields, the paper noted. It said that the emergence of the economic alliance reflects political maturity in the Arab World and responsibility towards serving the higher national interest.

U.S. policy vs. Mideast missiles

At the recent Paris conference, the United States argued, some believe ineffectually, against the spread of chemical weapons in the Middle East while doing little to curtail Israel's nuclear arsenal. Now the energies of the Bush administration are likely to be concentrated on what America perceives as the growing 'missile race' in the Middle East.

By Naseem Abdallah

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States faces a frustrating diplomatic spring under its new administration as it mounts a campaign for limiting what it sees as a ballistic missiles race in the Middle East.

U.S. defense officials believe that the "War of the Cities" between Iran and Iraq, in which the destructive power of the long-range missiles was proven with the loss of thousands of civilian lives, has been at least partly responsible for the addition of ballistic missiles to the inventories of all major countries in the Middle East.

Arab diplomatic sources in Washington argue that the Arab countries' acquisition of ballistic missiles is directly related to the sense of insecurity created by Israel's nuclear capability. This argument figured prominently at the Paris conference, where western concerns over chemical warfare proliferation were noted for the absence of any reference to

Israel's nuclear capability.

"So long as Israel's nuclear capability remains outside international control or monitoring the argument for maintaining a conventional deterrent force in the Arab World will remain a strong one," said one diplomat. "It is not that the Arab countries are particularly awash with petrodollars or that they can go on spending on military stockpiles. It's a matter of sheer necessity."

U.S. diplomatic initiatives on the ballistic missiles issue so far have skirted what Arab diplomats see as the "linkage" between the various levels of military buildup in the Middle East. "It is quite ludicrous to separate the issues of chemical and nuclear proliferation and the matter of ballistic missiles," said one analyst. "To my mind they are interdependent; one problem cannot be addressed without attention to the others."

Although Israel has had a long-standing programme to develop long-range missiles, it is the Egyptian programme in recent years that has awakened U.S. officials to the need for diplomatic action. Before President George Bush took over in January, U.S. officials were hinting at inviting both Egypt and Israel to talks on the missile issue.

Initially, the Bush administration wants to engage the Middle East governments into a framework of cooperation that will involve commitment by each of the countries to provide notice of test launches. Although innocuous at face value, U.S. officials hope that such an arrangement will enable the administration to monitor and assess the potential of each of the missile-owning countries.

The test monitoring arrangements then could be upgraded into a more comprehensive for-

mat covering limitation and control of production and deployment.

Pentagon experts have cited arguments for seeking Arab pledges against "first use" and on the size and nature (nuclear, chemical, conventional, etc.) of the payload. What few of the administration experts have failed to acknowledge is that military deployment in the Middle East is the direct outcome of the Arab states' threat perception via a vis Israel's nuclear capability.

Many of the administration's respected — and hence influential — experts still seem to believe that the issues of Israel's nuclear power, chemical weapons and missiles production have to be treated separately. It is because of this prevailing narrow-focus view that analysts feel there cannot be a breakthrough on missiles without movement on the wider issue of Palestine. — *Academic File*.

NATO partners acquiesce in Bonn's missile problems

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

LONDON — With their mild reaction to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's statement that no NATO decision is needed this year to modernise nuclear weapons, the United States and Britain have accepted that Bonn's political problems come first.

Washington and London, the most hard-line members of the 16-nation Western alliance, had for some time been pushing the West Germans to agree in 1989 to a programme to upgrade short-range missiles and other nuclear systems.

Bonn, faced with widespread public opposition to the plan, had been dragging its feet.

Finally Kohl, in an interview with the British newspaper Financial Times published on Friday, said there was no need to commit NATO to an update of its 88 Lance missile launchers until 1991 or 1992.

Initial U.S. and British comments were surprisingly sympathetic to the dilemma of the West German leader, who has tried to show Atlantic solidarity while at the same time taking account of the strong anti-nuclear feeling at home.

A European-based U.S. official said Washington wanted a "positive signal" from Bonn on the Lance, but said: "It doesn't have to be a decision (on modernisation) taken in 1989. We recognise that the Germans aren't going to do that."

A British official also said London did not want to make life difficult for Bonn, and added: "I

don't think the Americans are in the business of trying to twist the arms of the Germans at the moment. They realise there are domestic concerns there."

NATO launched its modernisation plan in 1983, foreseeing a reduction in the total number of nuclear warheads — missiles, bombs and artillery shells — but improvement of remaining stocks. Since then it has cut warheads by 35 per cent — mainly obsolete shells — to a figure of 4,600.

The question of replacing the ageing Lance, NATO's only tactical missile with a range of 110 kilometres, has become more acute since the 1987 U.S.-Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty abolishing medium-range missiles.

The U.S. Defense Department is examining several candidates for the new missile, of which the favourite is a nuclear version of the army tactical missile system, which is being developed as a conventional weapon for the U.S.

In order to go on funding development, the U.S. Congress wants assurances from the rest of NATO that they support the modernisation programme.

The problem for frontline West Germany is that in any East-West conflict short-range missiles and shells would be likely to explode on its or on East German territory. Bonn politicians have coined the saying: "The shorter the range, the deader the Germans."

Over the past year, a compromise had appeared to be emerging in West Germany that

it would approve the missile modernisation programme in return for a sharp cut in NATO's nuclear artillery shells.

But for Kohl, faced with continuing setbacks in local elections, no time has seemed like a good time to announce such a decision.

To add to the problem, a stream of disarmament offers and unilateral cutbacks from the Soviet Union has intensified the feeling among West Germans that no modernisation is needed.

In December, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev announced he was withdrawing 50,000 men and 5,000 tanks from the Warsaw Pact front lines. The withdrawals will include a small number of Soviet tactical nuclear missiles.

This will hardly affect the balance in tactical missiles — the Warsaw Pact currently has nearly 14,000 launchers to NATO's 88.

Nevertheless, NATO has spurned repeated Soviet proposals for talks on scrapping short-range missiles, arguing that now medium-range missiles are going to be denuded altogether of a nuclear deterrent.

Kohl has said he does not favour the abolition of short-range missiles, but many West German politicians would like to see talks with the Soviets on reducing them.

It took a major act of nerve for Kohl to agree to the INF treaty, with its inevitable consequence that more emphasis would be placed on short-range systems.

Since he took that decision, his NATO partners have been inclined to look more leniently on his domestic political problems.

Turkey debates the Ozals — technocrats or sultans?

By Hugh Pope
Reuter

ISTANBUL — A few steps from the tomb of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent lies what some see as a symbol of the growing power of the family of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Ozal's youngest brother Yusuf is the minister in charge of the state-dominated economy and the prime minister's cousin, Husnu Dogan, is minister of agriculture.

Younger brother Korkut has nurtured Turkey's growing links with Saudi Arabia, Ozal's banker son Ahmet a close aide and daughter Zeynep has been involved with Istanbul city politics.

But most powerful of all the Ozal line besides Turgut is said to be his wife Semra. The prime minister is rarely far from her and businessmen have knelt before her in public.

"Turkey may be a democracy, but it is definitely oriental," said one Western diplomat. "It can be pretty bitter if you are not inside the charmed circle."

The 61-year-old prime minister however has rejected Inonu's allegations as well as those in the first book about the Ozal family. It became a bestseller after hitting Turkish bookshops last month.

"They consider me like a dynasty," Ozal told Reuters this month. "But I am not a king or emir... dictator or a single-party 'national leader.' (We) are all elected by the people."

He noted that Inonu himself was the son of Ismet Inonu, Turkey's long-serving second president and "national leader."

But Ozal family members are in posts of great power, and, despite Ozal's image abroad as a centre-right technocrat, Turkish caricaturists like to draw him in robes as an Ottoman ruler like Suleyman the Magnificent, who died in 1566.

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He noted that Inonu himself was the son of Ismet Inonu, Turkey's long-serving second president and "national leader."

"She does good work for charity and is a modern role model for women," a senior leftist communist told Reuters. "But she is

despite Inonu's allegations about Ozal's family, some opposition strategists think that the issue is unlikely to become a major one in the March elections.

An economic boom since 1983 is now slowing fast, accompanied by growing social hardship.

Despite Inonu's allegations about Ozal's family, some opposition strategists think that the issue is unlikely to become a major one in the March elections.

An economic boom since 1983 is now slowing fast, accompanied by growing social hardship.

Peruvians emigrate to escape economic crisis, violence

By David Brough
Reuter

LIMA — Peruvians are leaving their country in increasing numbers to escape a deepening economic crisis and guerrilla violence, according to recent surveys.

Angry with the plunging value of their wages and frightened they could be victims of a guerrilla attack, many Peruvians say they are leaving in the hope of finding a better future abroad.

Every day lines of more than 500 people wait to collect new passports at the emigration office

in central Lima.

The situation in Peru is just terrible," said William Britton Sr., a Peruvian engineer of English descent who plans to leave Peru, following his son to work in the United States.

The son, William Jr., left Lima in January to work as a data processor in a large computing company in Ohio.

"For us it's very dangerous living here," he told Reuters.

He said his family, like many others, feared getting maimed or killed in an attack by Maoist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) or Marxist-Leninist Tupac

Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) guerrillas.

The MRTA dynamited several restaurants in Lima recently. Sendero Luminoso have blockaded the city and called armed strikes threatening death to people who turned up for work.

A more worrying problem for many is the economy. Inflation of more than 1,700 per cent is biting deep into people's wages.

William Jr., who studied computing at the University of Florida, was astonished to learn how little his friends were earning when he visited Lima in December, his father said.

He found out he would earn up to \$200 a month in Peru, for short of the \$2,500 a month he would receive in the United States.

The Brittons' case is one example of a "brain drain" that threatens to deprive Peru of talent needed for its economic development.

In January the independent current affairs magazine *Si* quoted the case of nuclear engineer Luis Villegas, who was planning to leave Peru with his family and go to another South American country or the United States.

Villegas, who worked at a nuclear power plant at Huarango, 40 kilometres north of Lima, said he was leaving because his earnings did not reflect his years of study and training.

He was earning about \$70 a month — much less than the \$800 to \$1,000 a month

Features

Rubber tappers of the Amazon

By Tom Quinn

The vast, tranquil green of the western Amazon basin masks the rapid, often brutal, change that has characterised the past decade there, particularly in the states of Rondonia and Acre, Brazil's latest frontier. In both states, and in other parts of the Amazon, Brazil's tremendous economic growth has favoured the development of large-scale enterprises — for example, cattle ranching and agricultural colonisation schemes that are currently bringing nearly 200,000 new settlers into the region each year. Largely ignored have been the more than 500,000 inhabitants of the tropical forest who make their living by gathering raw materials such as natural rubber and Brazil nuts.

This policy has resulted in massive clearing of the forest, usually by the method of cutting and then burning the dense tropical vegetation. Last year, 170,000 fires were counted in Brazil's part of the western Amazon alone. They were most heavily clustered along the 1,100 kilometres of BR-364, the main highway between Cuiaba, the principal staging area for colonisation from southern Brazil, and Rondonia's capital, Porto Velho.

The fires are currently contributing one-tenth of the global production of carbon dioxide, the gas judged principally responsible for the warming of the world's climate known as the "greenhouse effect." They have recently prompted Brazil's president, Jose Sarney, who described the fires as

"the red light" that awakened him, to call for a drastic reversal of the Brazilian government's approach to development in the Amazon. In particular, the fires have focused increased attention from international organisations and the Brazilian government on the plight of traditional rural Amazonian communities, both Indian and ethnically mixed *caboclo*, as well as their sources of livelihood, rubber tapping chief among them.

Rubber: Boom and backwater

Since the mid-nineteenth-century rubber boom in Brazil, indigenous and *caboclo* rubber tappers have collected raw latex from natural stands of rubber trees in the Amazon forest, tapping trees along miles-long intersecting networks of rudimentary forest paths. This mode of extraction, often based on tribal or community-based common property customs, proved to be sustainable over generations. Brazilian productivity, however, lagged behind plantation competitors in Southeast Asia. With the end of the Amazon rubber boom in the 1970s, rubber tapping became an economic backwater on the frontier, with little or no power to influence government policy.

But in 1985, after more than a decade of organising, representatives of sixteen rural workers' unions and other local organisations from four Amazon states succeeded in forming the National Council of Rubber Tappers.

The council presented demands to the state and federal governments for increased social services, higher rubber prices, and fundamental change in regional development planning.

The centrepiece of the council's programme has been to work toward the creation of "extractive reserves" or common forests, in large areas of the Amazon where rubber and other useful trees grow. Rubber tappers are asking that these reserves be used only for the sustainable harvest of forest products. Rubber-tapper leaders have presented their proposal before hearings of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. And the international advocacy of Francisco Mendes, president of the rural workers' union in Xapuri, Acre, has persuaded the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank to endorse the common forest concept in loan renewals to the Amazon region.

The Amazonian alliance

The rubber tappers' call for extractive reserves has also been enthusiastically endorsed by those in Brazil's budding environmental and indigenous movements. In 1986 the Council of Rubber Tappers and the Union of Indigenous Nations formed an "Amazonian Alliance" in order to press for the creation of common forests and the demarcation of Indian lands.

After a long and complicated effort, enough public pressure

was generated for the creation, in both Acre and Rondonia, of state forestry and environmental protection agencies. And in February 1988 the governor of Acre, Flaviano Melo, proclaimed the establishment of the first common forest in Brazil.

In Rondonia, the state government has also taken up the initiative to establish common forests. In marked contrast to Acre, however, where grass-roots rubber-tapper organisations have pressured the state government for more than a decade to resolve land conflicts, rural communities in Rondonia are less organised. For common forests to fulfil their promise in Rondonia, considerable organising work still needs to be done.

Recent research has shown that the highly diversified production practices of rubber tappers offer sustainable returns when compared with either colonist farming or cattle ranching, especially in light of the soil exhaustion caused by the latter activities in the fragile tropical environment. But the area needed for a household to sustain itself in the forest currently averages more than 600 acres, and ways must be found to enrich the forest to enable some measure of intensification.

Access to resources

Building on Foundation approaches in other tropical countries, the principal focus of the Brazil office's Rural Poverty and Resources programme has been to link resource conserva-

tion to the creation of better livelihoods for the rural poor. In the Amazon region this takes the form of support for activities through which rural communities, intermediary organisations, research and teaching institutions, and government agencies can work together toward establishing that link.

Recently the Foundation made grants totalling \$400,000 to assist efforts to create forest reserves in Rondonia and Acre. At the centre of these grants, observes programme officer Peter May, are "the people who live and struggle and survive as rubber tappers."

Says May, "We're working with them because of their expression of concern for access to the resources on which they depend. It's all the better that this also coincides with objectives of the environmental movement and with global concern for the quality of the earth's atmosphere."

The National Council of Rubber Tappers received \$50,000 to establish referral centres in the capital cities of Acre and Rondonia. In those centres, full-time staff will field inquiries from rural communities, raise pressing problems with relevant state officials, monitor local land conflicts, and organise meetings.

The Institute for Amazon Studies, which has played a crucial role in galvanising support for the common-forest concept and which has already undertaken a Foundation-assisted legal advocacy and research programme in support of the rubber tappers' movement, received \$155,200.

The institute, headquartered in Curiutiba in southeastern Brazil, will use the money to expand its advocacy for natural-resource management by Amazonian peoples, to provide legal and technical assistance to the Council of Rubber Tappers and the state government agencies authorised to create common forests, and to lay the base for the opening of an institute office in the western Amazon.

A grant of \$50,000 to the Acre State Technology Foundation will support field work and planning



In a tropical forest in Acre, a rubber tapper scores a tree to start the flow of natural latex into collection vessels.

for the management of Brazil's first common forest in Acre. The Federal University of Acre, which received two grants totalling \$140,050, will serve as a partner in the planning, and will collaborate with staff members from the University of Florida's Amazon Research and Training Programme to develop a programme in agroforestry and farming practices that would be suitable to the Amazon forest.

Finally, the Rondonia State Forestry Institute received \$4,220 to conduct surveys in areas where conditions are con-

ducive to the creation of common forests. In keeping with the emphasis on collaborative research, representatives of the Council of Rubber Tappers will be involved in training the survey field team, and members of the rural communities will take part in discussions of the research results.

In a related series of actions, the Foundation's field office in Lima, Peru, recently made a series of grants using a similar collaborative approach for improving resource management in the Amazon basin.

'White Zulu' sets anti-apartheid trend for young South Africans

Songs of the soul and enlightened colonialists

By Gill Tudor
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — Johnny Clegg, a Zulu-speaking white musician whose Afro-Western rhythms have proved popular in Europe, is making anti-apartheid politics fashionable among South Africa's privileged white youth.

Known as "le zoulou blanc" in time to the music. Some held up flickering cigarette lighters in solidarity with the lyrics.

"The ship we're sailing on

doesn't have to be the Titanic," Clegg told them.

"We have every problem out in the open that other countries have hidden, and I believe we'll be the first country to solve those problems. You people have got to be a part of that."

Clegg acknowledged that many people were there not because of his political message but simply because it was fashionable.

"Unfortunately, small cult operations don't really have a maximum impact and when you make something fashionable you're inserting it into the cultural mainstream. You're saying it's cool to talk about Mandela and political prisoners," he said.

"They'll obviously be good 60 per cent who don't really give a damn but you've reached far more people — you'll have 15 or 20 per cent whose lives you've really changed."

Clegg, 35, was hooked on African music as a teenager when he heard black migrant workers playing guitar in the streets around his Johannesburg home.

Juluka

He asked one to teach him their distinctive style of playing, and through them he learned Zulu and the tribal dancing which forms an integral part of his act.

In the past some whites have walked out or hurled abuse at Clegg's overtly political songs.

But this time the response to songs like "Asimbonanga" was a rousing cheer.

The crowd leapt and swayed

to work full-time in music. "I'd been playing traditional Zulu music for a long time, and I was very interested in finding a common ground for both Western and African forms," Clegg explained.

"So I was introducing certain western dynamics, which actually increased its appeal."

Juluka's early audiences were almost entirely black — at that time playing to racially-mixed crowds was illegal but easier to get away with in the black townships, where their fame spread by word of mouth.

Banned white

Even so, Clegg estimates that during one year, 1982, police broke up 10 to 15 per cent of their shows. His anti-apartheid stance also meant state-run television and radio systematically ignored him and banned some of his songs from the airwaves.

Juluka split up in 1985 when Mchunu returned to farm cattle in the Zulu heartland of Natal province. Savuka was born soon afterwards, replacing Juluka's folk base with a more rock feel.

Clegg admits his black support has waned and puts this down mainly to negative coverage in the conservative black press. But his optimism about racial harmony is as strong as ever.

In "missing," a song on detentions without trial, he sings: "I want you to know that this state will never last. Maybe better days are coming and we'll make peace with the past."

The song drew one of the loudest cheers of the evening.

Rebels talk of toppling Khomeini; experts call it a pipedream

By Neil Macfarquhar
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iran's main opposition group says it has the military ability to overthrow Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's fundamentalist government, but military analysts question the assertion.

Hussein Mahdavi, a senior official of the Iraqi-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, would not say how many years it might take to overthrow Iran's government.

"If you look at the divisions... inside the Khomeini regime, and compare it to the resistance ready at any time to overthrow the regime, you cannot seriously speak about needing years," he said in an interview with the AP.

"We've shown that we have the ability to militarily overthrow this regime," he added, referring to the large-scale incursion by the Mujahideen's military arm, the National Liberation Army (NLA), into western Iran just before the Aug. 20 ceasefire that ended the Gulf war.

While the Mujahideen still say the operation was a major victory, diplomats say the rebels were mauled by Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards.

The Mujahideen admit to losing 1,000 fighters. In addition, thousands of their supporters inside Iran were arrested and many believed executed.

Diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the opera-

tion, called Eternal Light, undermined whatever support the rebels had inside Iran as many were forced to flee and left it seriously weakened.

The NLA pushed 150

kilometres into Bakhtaran province before they were pushed back.

Talk of overthrowing

Khomeini is "sheer dreaming and sheer stupidity" said one western military analyst, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"What could they do? Where would they go? They got destroyed in the Eternal Light operation."

Capturing territory

Much of the civilian population had been moved away from the border during the eight-year-old Gulf war, so capturing territory would be a limited threat to the government, analysts said.

They argued that it was highly unlikely that the rebels, whose strength by the most optimistic estimate is around 15,000 fighters, could overwhelm the Iranian army.

With Tehran more than 550 kilometres east of the border, any force attempting to move on the capital would be badly exposed with a long, vulnerable supply line without vital air support, the analysts said.

"They could get in, but they'd not get anywhere with substance. They'd be waxed along the way," one Western analyst commented.



Massoud Rajavi

But said they have no problem moving back and forth into Iran.

Mahdavi accused Iran of avoiding a peace treaty because of internal differences and said that if Tehran did agree to a treaty it might trigger a civil war.

"They'll have to resort to killings and purges within the ranks," he said. "In such a state the in-fighting would create an atmosphere similar to that of the revolution."

"At that time the NLA... will embark on overthrowing the Khomeini regime," Mahdavi said.

The Mujahideen were allied with Khomeini in the 1979 revolution that toppled Iran's monarchy. But the fundamentalists turned on their liberal and leftist allies in 1981-82, killing thousands in a bloody purge.

Mahdavi, 43, was a former governor of Iran's Zanjan province and held numerous government posts under Khomeini before he fled in 1982.

He conceded that a peace treaty might mean Iraq barring the Mujahideen from staging military operations across the border.

He would not say if they are conducting such operations now.

(The white Zulu) to his French fans, Clegg has notched up a string of hits abroad with his energetic blend of western rock and traditional African music.

Now he and his band Savuka have returned for a brief tour in their home country, where his appeals for racial unity seem to be hitting home more than ever among South Africa's largely apolitical white youth.

New direction

"I think the role of any musician is to have two or three songs on an album which push people's perceptions or fears or hopes in a new direction," Clegg recently told reporters.

Clegg feels South African musicians should sing about their own experiences rather than mouth bland international lyrics.

His own songs often celebrate traditional African life, switching

language freely between English and Zulu. But the idyll is punctuated by hard-edged condemnation of South Africa's apartheid racial segregation.

In a tribute to jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela he sings: "asimbonanga umandela thina laph'elile khona", Zulu for "we have not seen Mandela in the place where he is kept."

Another song takes a swipe at white colonial values:

Third world soul

"They said I should learn to speak a little bit of English, maybe practise birth control, keep away from controversial politics so as to save my third world soul."

Extra shows were laid on during last month's whirlwind South African tour as tens of thousands flocked to see Savuka's six-man line-up — three black, three white.

The vast majority were clean-cut white teenagers in their latest summer clothes.

In the past some whites have walked out or hurled abuse at Clegg's overtly political songs.

But this time the response to songs like "Asimbonanga" was a rousing cheer.

The crowd leapt and swayed

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Readmission to OAPEC highly certain

Egypt willing to consider oil output cuts

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said Tuesday it was willing to consider cutting its oil output and would stick by any pact among other producers outside OPEC to help stabilise the world oil market.

"We are willing to consider any cuts and abide by any agreement reached among the non-OPEC group," Hamad Ayoub, deputy chairman of the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC), told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Soviet Union, Norway, North Yemen, the Canadian province of Alberta and U.S. states of Texas and Alaska are also expected.

Ayoub said that non-OPEC countries agreed last month in London to consider measures to help stabilise world markets.

OPEC introduced new output quotas on Jan. 1 for its 13 members which has cut their production by more than 15 per cent.

"There are a variety of measures to be considered including cuts, limiting exports or even capping outputs. It all depends on a general understanding among the participants," Ayoub said.

Largest Swiss bank discloses big losses

LONDON (R) — Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), the largest Swiss bank, has lost more than £115 million (\$200 million) on its London securities business since April 1987, the Financial Times said Tuesday.

In an early edition, the paper quoted Rudolf Mueller, UBS chief executive and head of the bank's British operations, as saying he wanted to make a full public disclosure of its losses in order to put an end to damaging speculation.

The Financial Times said the losses made UBS "one of the largest known casualties of the recent turmoil in the world stock markets."

Mueller said performance of the bank's London securities

business had been "totally unacceptable" and had forced management changes.

But there would be no mass redundancies of the sort ordered by other ailing financial houses in London in recent months.

The losses were incurred almost entirely by Phillips and Drew, the London stockbroking firm bought in 1986 ahead of London's "Big Bang" deregulation of the financial markets.

"Perhaps expectations are building up too fast," he told reporters at a briefing in London

He added that the non-OPEC experts in London would make recommendations to their ministers, scheduled to meet in March.

He said Egypt's production in recent weeks varied between 870,000 barrels per day (b/d) and 920,000 b/d "but when Egypt gave OPEC its word to curb production we kept the level at 870,000."

Egypt, which exports about one-third of its production, is selling its top Suez and Ras Bahar grades at \$14.75 a barrel this month.

Ayoub said that prices, normally reviewed in the middle of each month, might not be changed until the end of February.

Production restraints remained

one of the main discussion points among oil producers, he added.

The economic situation of each country has to be carefully evaluated. A country relying heavily on oil revenues should not be expected to make drastic cuts," he said.

Ayoub mentioned Colombia as an example of a country which needed huge revenues to overcome economic difficulties following an earthquake last year.

Egypt itself, burdened by \$43 billion of foreign debt, also depends heavily on oil for hard currency earnings.

In Kuwait, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is almost certain to readmit Egypt when it meets in Kuwait on May 15. Acting

Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al Wattari said Tuesday.

The move would be another sign of Egypt's rehabilitation in the Arab World after its suspension from the Arab League and other pan-Arab organisations in 1979 because of its peace treaty with Israel.

Judging from voting records in other organisations on the matter... it's almost a foregone conclusion that Egypt's membership will be reactivated," Wattari told Reuters.

Formed in 1968 to promote joint Arab energy projects, OAPEC groups Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

Only Libya, Lebanon and Syria

have not restored diplomatic relations with Egypt since a 1987 Arab summit that gave Arab states the green light to do so.

Wattari said the return of Egypt would require support of three-quarters of the membership including two founding members.

The same conditions apply to the quorum, so even a boycott of the meeting by Libya and Syria would not block approval.

An OAPEC spokesman said a majority of ministers from member states had agreed to attend.

OAPEC states together produce nearly one-fourth of the world's oil. They have formed joint ventures and companies in oil transport, engineering, investment and training to further Arab economic integration.

Top official cautions against high hopes for new Third World debt strategy

LONDON (R) — Hopes for a dramatic new solution to the \$1.3 trillion Third World debt crisis might be running too high, the head of the IMF and World Bank's development panel said Monday.

Yves Fortin, executive secretary of the Joint Development Committee, said some progress had been made in tackling the debt problems of poor African nations but cautioned it would be wrong to expect a radical new strategy.

"Perhaps expectations are building up too fast," he told reporters at a briefing in London

on the committee's next meeting due in Washington at the start of April.

The debt crisis has returned to centre stage following a year of economic gloom in Latin America and as U.S. President Bush conducts a review of Washington's strategy.

The Group of Seven industrial nations — the U.S., Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and West Germany — also launched a new push to tackle the problem when they met in Washington for two days at the start of February.

Fortin said the current strategy for countries to grow out of their

debt, based on a 1985 plan by then U.S. treasury secretary James Baker, had achieved mixed results. Schemes to cut the burden were useful but insufficient without new lending.

The U.S. administration is due to release to Congress the results of a review of its debt strategy next week, while officials from major industrial countries have been examining the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

That second review has taken on added importance following

well-publicised differences between the World Bank and IMF in how they see their role in managing the debt crisis.

European monetary sources said the Group of Seven nations wanted to set out guidelines for a new strategy at the IMF's spring meeting at the end of March, but it was unclear now if the review by their deputies would be ready by then.

But political pressure is building for discussion by leaders of the seven nations at their summit set for Paris in July.

Kuwait completes drive to modernise refineries

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has completed a multi-billion dollar, eight-year programme to modernise its domestic oil refineries and boost their capacity by 28 per cent, a Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) spokesman said Tuesday.

He told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah would next Monday inaugurate the newly modernised and expanded Mina Abdullah refinery, the last of three covered by the programme.

The \$2 billion project at Mina Abdullah south of Kuwait City hiked its capacity to 200,000 barrels per day (b/d) from 75,000 b/d and made it one of the world's most modern, the spokesman said.

Kuwait has aggressively expanded oil refining operations at home and abroad to maximise said.

Now that 1988 and 1989 economic growth looked stronger than first thought it was clearly important that such higher revenues be used to reduce the deficit, and not to increase expenditure.

Because of a failure in the 1960s and 1970s to curb public sector spending, Italy now faces by far the heaviest overall debt load of all developed nations.

revenue from its crude. The northern Gulf state, a key member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), produces more than two-thirds of its oil as refined products.

The \$5 billion modernisation scheme has boosted capacity of the three main domestic refineries to 670,000 b/d, the spokesman said.

Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah last month put Kuwait's oil production at its OPEC quota of 1,037 million b/d. Kuwait also owns refineries in the Netherlands and Denmark in addition to around 5,000 European petrol stations.

The Mina Abdullah refinery produces almost no fuel oil, a product less in demand than lighter distillates such as gas oil and kerosene.

Report reveals \$8 billion loss in Mexican reserves

MEXICAN CITY (AP) — Mexico's foreign reserves plummeted from a record \$16 billion to around \$8 billion last year, one of the most severe costs of an otherwise successful anti-inflation programme, a private think tank says.

Investors' "incredulity" that the government would maintain a freeze on the peso-dollar exchange rate was a leading cause of capital flight, the Centre for Private Sector Economic Studies

said in a review of the Mexican anti-inflation programme.

Some \$700 million in capital returned to Mexico in January, even after the government instituted a gradual peso devaluation, the central bank announced.

The government sought to induce an inflation-curbing recession, but failed until the second half of 1988, the centre said. The economy grew by 0.5 per cent in 1988 but was shrinking at the end of the year, the report said.

The agreements expire Sept. 30, and USX Corp., Bethlehem Steel Corp. and other leading steelmakers want to be certain they are renewed. The administration of President George Bush has pledged its support for the pacts, although no specifics have been offered on whether they would be continued exactly in their present form.

He said larger companies were probably spending more.

Under the five-year trade

pacts, imports have been reduced from 26.4 per cent of the American market in 1984, to about 20.5 per cent last year. Meanwhile, employment and profits were up last year over 1988.

While U.S. steel companies say they continue to need the protection of import curbs, some other American manufacturers contend the restraints have created steel shortages in the United States and driven up prices.

In the cases, the lawyers are detailing allegations of foreign government subsidies and steel "dumping," or the selling of products in the United States at below fair-market value.

The unfair trading cases may never actually be filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission, an independent agency with authority to order tariffs or other import relief for injured domestic industries.

The pacts were negotiated by the administration of president Ronald Reagan with Japan, South Korea, Brazil and other nations in 1984 in response to complaints by U.S. companies that they could not compete with a flood of subsidised foreign imports.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Arab funds pledge to help Sudan

KUWAIT (R) — Sudan's finance minister said Monday that seven Arab aid funds meeting in Kuwait have pledged their commitment to the development of Sudan. Omar Nour Al Dayem said a news conference in Kuwait Sudan had no immediate plans to join either of two emerging Arab blocs. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has proposed that Sudan and three non-Arab African states should join one of the two blocs — an Arab Maghreb union comprising Morocco, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania. Nour Al Dayem said his talks with the seven funds covered new relief aid needed to rebuild areas devastated by floods last year and the repayment of arrears from earlier loans. The funds have extended loans totalling \$1.7 billion to Sudan, burdened by a total foreign debt of some \$13 billion that it has not fully serviced since the early 1980s. Nour Al Dayem said he hoped for good relations with Western creditors, but indicated that Sudan did not want them to attach what he called political conditions to new aid.

Belgian Hansen to head ILO

GENEVA (AP) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monday elected Michel Hansen, Belgium's minister of civil service, as its new director-general for a five-year term. Hansen, who has headed the U.N. agency for three terms since 1974, received a required majority of 38 votes in the second round of secret voting by the ILO's 160-member executive governing body, an official announcement said. The only other candidate, former Tunisian labour minister Mohammad Ennaceur, polled 24 votes on the inconclusive first ballot, where Hansen got 28. Ennaceur received no support in the second round, where 17 blank ballots and one void vote were cast. Hansen was appointed Belgian civil service minister last May after 6½ years as minister of labour and employment. He was minister for French culture in 1979-81 and has been a member of parliament since 1974. The ILO, originally founded in 1919, is the oldest U.N. agency. Grouping union, government and management representatives, it sets labour standards worldwide.

Kuwait to pay \$28m in compensation

KUWAIT (AP) — The government of Kuwait will pay Saudi Arabia eight million Kuwaiti dinars (\$28 million) in compensation for Saudi nationals who own property in the Kuwaiti portion of a divided zone between the two countries, an official decree said Monday. The decree was published Monday in the Official Gazette, thus making it binding. The agreement was initially concluded Nov. 7 during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah. The compensation is part of a final settlement of issues that remained pending after the two countries agreed in 1965 to split between them what was then known as the "Neutral Zone." Under the provisions of the decree, the government of Kuwait also will compensate for the property its own citizens lost when Saudi Arabia claimed its portion of the Neutral Zone. The Neutral Zone is an oil-rich area being exploited on behalf of the two countries by a Japanese company through the Arabian Oil Company and by Getty Oil of the United States.

U.K. loses £670m from oil accidents

LONDON (R) — Accidents in North Sea oil fields have cost Britain £670 million (\$1.2 billion) in lost revenues since last summer, Energy Minister Peter Morrison said Monday. "Up to the end of January production of some 9.5 million tonnes, worth some £670 million at today's prices, has been deferred as a result of the recent accidents," he said. The biggest accident was the fire at the Piper Alpha rig last July that killed 167 people. "It is too early to say when all this production will be resumed and hence to estimate the final cost," Morrison told parliament.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0
Pound Sterling	945.1	954.8
Deutschmark	288.7	291.6
Swiss franc	339.9	343.3
French franc	84.9	85.7
	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.8 427.4
	Dutch guilder	258.5 258.8
	Swedish crown	85.0 85.8
	Italian lira (for 100)	39.6 40.0
	Belgian franc (for	

Winnie Mandela scandal deepens

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Three black men have signed statements saying Winnie Mandela was "involved in the events" in the night they were abducted and beaten by some of her unofficial bodyguards, according to a prominent anti-apartheid attorney.

Geoff Budlender of the legal resources centre said Monday his three clients, who are considering possible legal action, gave him their statements about what happened, but have not authorised him to release details.

The men, aged 20 to 29, were released from Mandela's home after intervention by community leaders. But a fourth abductee, 14-year-old Stompie Moeketsi, is missing and feared dead.

Budlender said his clients "say they were abducted — three of them and Stompie — and they were all assaulted on the first night. They say she (Mrs. Mandela) was involved in the events on



Winnie Mandela

the first night. They say Stompie was removed from them a day or two afterward and they never saw him again."

Mandela, wife of imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, has denied that she was at her temporary home when the bodyguards, known as the Mandela-United soccer team, brought the four there late last month. But she has also defended the bodyguards, saying they took the four from a Methodist church residence to protect them from sexual abuse, a charge the church said it has investigated and found false.

The Weekly Mail, an anti-apartheid newspaper, broke the story two weeks ago, detailing the accusations that the released men made at a community meeting. Community leaders appealed for the return of Stompie, who was reported to have been more severely beaten than the others. Mandela said she did not know what had happened to the 14-year-old, and made a public appeal for him to come forward. The boy's mother says she believes he is dead.

The Weekly Mail reported last Friday that "comrades" in Soweto had found Stompie's body in the township, but it has not been produced, and police say they have no information about it.

Police Major-General J.D. Joubert, who has been assigned to investigate all aspects of the case, appealed Monday to the "comrades" to come forward and provide evidence they had found the body or to publicly deny the report.

Violence claims 24 on eve of Sri Lankan poll

COLOMBO (R) — Twenty-four people were killed on the eve of Sri Lanka's first general election for 12 years and political parties appealed jointly for peaceful voting.

Police said 19 supporters of various political parties were gunned down during the past 24 hours in southern areas by suspected members of the left-wing People's Liberation Front.

Indian sources said five Tamil separatist guerrillas opposed to Wednesday's election were killed in clashes with Indian troops in the northern district of Jaffna.

Police said 25 buses were set on fire in the south in separate incidents Monday and Tuesday in protest against the election. The passengers had been forced off the buses and there were no

casualties.

They said 13 candidates and about 350 political activists have been killed in the past four weeks in the bloodiest run-up to an election on the Indian Ocean island.

"Curfew on Monday and Tuesday. Don't vote in the fake election. Death to those who vote," said a poster pasted in Pettah, the bazaar area of Colombo.

It was signed by the People's Patriotic Movement, believed to be the military wing of the front.

Shops in Pettah closed early Tuesday. Police later forced some of them to reopen.

Residents said similar posters appeared in the south, the stronghold of the front, and in northern areas where Liberation Tigers

Carbide ordered to pay \$470m

NEW DELHI (R) — India's supreme court ordered the Union Carbide Corporation of the United States to pay \$470 million in full and final compensation for the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Chief Justice R.S. Pathak said Tuesday the compensation was a "just, fair, equitable and reasonable sum" for victims of the 1984 tragedy which killed more than 3,000 people in the central Indian city.

The figure was immediately accepted by lawyers for the Indian government and received a nod of assent from Union Carbide executives in the court.

Pathak ordered all civil cases over the disaster and criminal proceedings against former Union Carbide chief executive Warren Anderson and other company officials to be quashed.

More than 3,300 people were killed, or have since died from their injuries, after toxic gas spewed from a Union Carbide pesticide plant at Bhopal Dec. 3, 1984.

Gopal Subramanium, a chief attorney for India in its suit, said the payment would constitute "full and final settlement of all claims."

A company spokesman, Earl S. Lack, told the AP by telephone from his New York home that Union Carbide had accepted the judgment.

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North's lawyer implicates Reagan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Ronald Reagan "participated personally and directly" in giving favoured treatment to countries that supported the contra rebels in Nicaragua, lawyers for Oliver North say in court papers released Monday.

The filing of the papers was aimed at having charges against North dropped.

North attorney Brendan Sullivan, opposing a compromise between the independent counsel and the Justice Department, said in the court papers that that proposed deal on keeping certain secrets out of the trial would prevent him from introducing this evidence which he said was central to North's defence.

He also criticised Attorney General Dick Thornburgh for declining "to take the political heat" and make a separate secret-protecting move that could protect national secrets and lead to charges being thrown out.

Sullivan said that at the heart of the case there were third-country arrangements with which the Reagan administration obtained military support for the contras. He said the policy was "that those third-country arrangements would not be disclosed outside a limited group of executive branch officials."

At the time, Congress had restricted and at times prohibited

Argentina ponders latest raid on army

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Gunmen attacked an Argentine military base for the third time in less than a month Monday and the country's top military officials met to determine whether the shoot-out marks a resurgence of left-wing guerrilla violence.

A defence ministry spokesman said five to seven men attacked an army arsenal in Rio Cuarto, 715 kilometres north west of Buenos Aires shortly before dawn. Troops repelled the attack, exchanging heavy gunfire in which one soldier was wounded.

The spokesman said the men fled before they could be identified. An army spokesman said earlier they were presumably left-wing guerrillas.

After the La Tablada incident police swooped in on over 100 houses, mainly in the province of Buenos Aires but found no firm evidence to indicate a revived guerrilla campaign was underway, police sources said.

Government officials said in January there was evidence that Enrique Gorriarán Merlo, 47, a former leader of the Trotskyist People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), played a key role in the attack on La Tablada.

Gorriarán Merlo fled Argentina after the ERP was broken up in 1978, re-emerging in Nicaragua a year later where he fought alongside the Sandinistas

— and nine servicemen died in 30 hours of heavy fighting.

Two weeks after the La Tablada attack an unidentified group fired on an air force base in the Andean province of Mendoza near the Chilean border. An official communiqué issued at the time said there were no arrests and no one was injured in an hour of shooting before the attackers fled.

Guerrilla warfare died out in Argentina in the late 1970s when the 1976-83 military dictatorship carried out its ruthless "dirty war" on subversion in which 9,000 people disappeared, presumed killed.

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Whirlwind NATO tour takes Baker to Greece

Turkey, U.S. to enhance ties

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz said after talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Tuesday that Ankara and Washington had the will to further enhance ties in all fields.

"We are gratified to see that both sides have the will to further enhance relations in all fields and not to mortgage them to the interest of any third party," Yilmaz told reporters.

Diplomats saw his comment on a "third party" as an indirect reference to Greece, a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally with which Turkey has been at odds over Cyprus and Aegean Sea rights for years.

Yilmaz said his talks with Baker, who also met Prime Minister Turgut Ozal during a two-and-a-half hour visit, briefly covered bilateral and NATO issues.

"We have had very interesting discussions today... I look forward to establishing close working relationship with the minister," Baker said in a brief statement. He later left for Greece during a whirlwind tour of 15 NATO countries.

Baker, who arrived in Ankara from West Germany, was also due to visit Italy Tuesday.

U.S. diplomats said Baker's

talks were friendly and correct but gave no details of the main substance of talks.

"They will talk about everything," a Turkish Foreign Ministry source said before the meetings. "But time is very limited and it will mainly be a get-acquainted exercise."

Turkey, with the largest armed forces in NATO after the United States, objected to the Reagan administration limiting military aid to Ankara in a 10-to-seven ratio compared with Greece, citing its crucial position in the alliance.

Diplomats said before Baker's visit the aid issue, a NATO stance for East-West negotiations in Vienna next month and modernisation of Turkish forces on the alliance's southeastern flank would be probable topics.

Turkey, which guards one-third of NATO's border with Warsaw Pact countries, differs with its allies on a joint stance for the conventional stability talks in Vienna.

Ankara objects to NATO being split into a main central zone for the talks, with Norway in a northern zone and Turkey and Greece in a southern zone.

"Modernisation" is not the key to Western security, he said in a radio interview. He said achieving a balance in Warsaw Pact and NATO conventional forces was the vital issue.

"There is still time to sort this out," one diplomat said shortly before Baker arrived in Ankara.

Turkey has also been upset by moves in the U.S. Congress to recognise Armenian claims of genocide in then Ottoman Turkey in 1915.

Turkey denies the claims, which have caused friction between Ankara and some of its allies in the past.

Genscher's warning

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher warned NATO allies Tuesday against making the dispute over modernisation of short-range nuclear missiles a test of Bonn's commitment to the Western alliance.

Genscher, speaking after U.S.-West German talks failed to settle differences over Chancellor Helmut Kohl's demand to delay

the modernisation of NATO's Lance missiles, said the West must now wrest the arms control initiative from Moscow.

"Modernisation" is not the key to Western security, he said in a radio interview. He said achieving a balance in Warsaw

Pact and NATO conventional forces was the vital issue.

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Turkey denies the claims, which have caused friction between Ankara and some of its allies in the past.

London and Washington are urging West Germany to make a commitment this year to update the Lance short-range nuclear missiles, mostly based in West Germany.

In talks here Sunday and Monday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Genscher and Kohl said they stood by a NATO decision taken at an alliance summit in March last year to modernise the Lance missiles "where necessary."

COLUMN

Police play with videos

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian state police will soon be taking target practice at moving video images. Officials said Thursday the police corps will buy computerised video equipment that will allow officers to practice shooting live ammunition at moving pictures projected on a large screen of paper or light cloth.

Once hit, the images will freeze to show the accuracy of the aim.

By echoing recent statements made by Kohl, Genscher showed new unity on defence policy in Bonn's centre-right coalition, forged under pressure from the United States and Britain.

London and Washington are urging West Germany to make a commitment this year to update the Lance short-range nuclear missiles, mostly based in West Germany.

Bring Elvis, win a million

LONDON (R) — A British tabloid newspaper Tuesday offered £1 million (\$1.75 million) to anyone who brought rock singer Elvis Presley into its offices alive.

The Sun said it would check to see if the contender really was the king of the rock — who was certified dead in 1977 — by checking his dental records and finger prints.

Rushdie was born into a Muslim family in Bombay.

Bhutto reaction

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Sunday's protest may have been staged by hard-line opposition groups which she said were opposed to her government and democracy.

Bhutto said she did not see how the protest could have been against Salman Rushdie's book because it was banned and unavailable in Pakistan and none of the protesters could have read it.

At an airport news conference Monday, after returning from a state visit to China, the prime minister said: "Was the demonstration against Salman Rushdie's book or a law and order situation?"

WASHINGTON (R) — After nearly a month in the White House, first lady Barbara Bush joked Monday that the president is complaining their dog is coming between them. Mrs. Bush said their pet dog Millie crawls into their White House bed and sleeps between George and her. She acknowledged in an interview with Reuters and several reporters that Bush complains the dog literally comes between them, as it did in the vice presidential mansion.

"Right up there (on the bed)," she said about the pregnant English spaniel who never leaves Mrs. Bush's side. "Right in the middle." In a free-wheeling interview, the outspoken, 63-year-old, who wears fake pearls, no colouring in her gray hair and is not embarrassed by her wrinkles, said she planned to leave running the government to her husband.

"I don't fool around with the government," she said. "I'm leaving that to George."

Man saved from suicide kills three

MANILA (R) — A man angry at being saved from a suicide attempt hacked to death three neighbours in the central Philippines before residents stabbed him to death, the Philippine news agency said Tuesday. It said Gerardo Gregorio, Junior, who had tried to kill himself by drinking insecticide, stalked out of a hospital in Aklan province last weekend after pulling out a dextrose tube inserted in his arm.

When he got home, he killed three neighbours with a machete, and wounded three others. Angry residents stopped his murderous rampage by hacking him to death.

New Orleans jazz

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The New Orleans jazz and heritage festival will celebrate its 20th anniversary this spring with a new riverfront concert site and a lineup including Santana, Miles Davis, Al Green and Wynton Marsalis. Evening concerts traditionally have been held on the riverboat festival, but the president's home base was moved to St. Louis last summer. The new river tent will be built on the banks of the Mississippi River and will seat about 3,000 people.

festival producer Quint Davis said Sunday.

Soviet ballet to make London debut

LONDON (AP) — Two Soviet theatre companies will make their British debuts late in February under the auspices of Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises Limited. A production company named after the award-winning actress, The Vakhtangov Theatre Company, will perform Mikhail Sholokhov's "The Peace of Brest-Litovsk" Feb